



1912 -1987

Labour 



# Seventy-five years of Socialism in Cambridge





# Foreword

ONE of the many surprises of Cambridge is that this bastion of the Establishment has always boasted a vibrant, energetic and truly eclectic Labour Party.

It would be impossible to offer a comprehensive survey of 75 years of energetic commitment to socialist action in the city – nor to the many bodies in the wider Labour movement.

Academic socialists, trade union activists, cooperators, student enthusiasts, Christian pacifists, anti-fascists, nuclear disarmers and overseas aid campaigners have all played a vital part in Labour's untiring efforts in the city – and contributed much to national thinking as well.

What has bound them all together is their unshakeable belief that the Labour Party offers the best hope for profound social and economic change. This is not a false radicalism that re-emphasises private gain and public squalor but a belief in a real attack on the many

forms of poverty, a combined and collective search for a fair distribution of wealth and opportunity in a country free from prejudice and a world free from oppression and want.

This brief booklet intends only to give some flavour of the socialist achievements of the past 75 years – in the belief that the flame of past idealism and commitment will continue to inspire to success.

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**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:** The Cambridgeshire Collection, the Cambridgeshire County Record Office, Cambridge Evening News and the Labour Party Head Office Library.

**OUR THANKS TO:** Cambridge Cooperative Party, N.G.A., S.O.G.A.T., G.M.B., N.U.R., and T.G.W.U.



*Labour M.P. Frank Dobson (third from left) campaigning with Chris Howard, Labour's candidate for Cambridge, in the 1987 General Election.*



# Early Beginnings

CAMBRIDGE at the turn of the century was a small county market town dominated by the university. As such, it was hardly fertile territory for the organisation of trade unions or working-class political parties.

In 1892, after Ben Tillet addressed a meeting of the Building Trades Debating Society at the Corn Exchange, the Cambridge and District Labour Council was formed. Although one of the aims was to secure labour representation on all public bodies, the influence of the Liberal Party was strong, as meetings were held in the Sturton Town Hall in Mill Road. The movement also had the support of R. Slingsby, who was the first trade unionist to be elected to the Borough Council. However, despite some success with a campaign on wages, it floundered.

But in 1906 a group of socialists formed a branch of the Independent Labour Party. A small, dedicated band who devoted much of their energies to political education and initially ignored local council politics, members were drawn from the ranks of skilled workers and craftsmen. Several of those early pioneers were later to play prominent roles in the Cambridge Labour Party. The most notable of those was J.J. Overton, a watch-maker, who was to serve as secretary for over twenty-five years.

In August, 1911 the I.L.P. decided to contest a seat in Romsey in Borough Council elections. Four years earlier, national politics had inspired the formation of a Labour Representative Committee, composed of representatives of trade unions, the I.L.P. and the University Fabian Society. But the inspiration was not translated into action.

It was the election campaign that was to prove to be the catalyst which transformed the committee into the Cambridge District Trades Council and Labour Party.

Romsey Town in 1911 was a working-class suburb which had sprung up in the previous thirty years around the railway industry. It was a Liberal stronghold and their candidate had held the seat since

1897. He had a radical reputation and his supporters expressed surprise that a socialist wanted to oppose such a sound Liberal; in Parliament, a tacit Lib-Lab pact was in operation. But local socialists were convinced genuine working-class representation was needed.

The Romsey battle, one of only three being fought that year, was unusual in that it was three-cornered. The Labour candidate was Tom Orrey, a railwayman. An Independent Conservative also stood against the Liberal.

Tom Orrey's campaign set the pace, staging public meetings the opposition was forced to emulate. Among his speakers were F.W. Jowett, M.P. for Bradford, and Miss Perrott, a local teacher. W.T. Briggs, who was to become Labour's first Mayor, also joined the campaign.

Campaign issues included better housing, and improved sanitation and education. Better wages were also a major demand. By proposing an eight-hour day and a minimum wage of 6d an hour for council workers, it was hoped that, once accepted, the private sector would be forced to follow suit. A demand for evening meetings of the Town Council was also significant: without them, workers were effectively disqualified from standing as councillors.

Despite the huge effort put into the campaign, Tom Orrey came bottom of the poll with 147 votes. The Independent Conservative got 321 and the victorious Liberal, 660. But it was only the beginning.

# First steps: Labour councillors

ALTHOUGH the fight for a council seat failed, the 1911 campaign in Romsey Town still proved a success: it led to the creation of the Cambridge Labour Party. Representatives of railway workers, building trades, printers and shop assistants sat alongside the I.L.P. and the Fabians at its first annual general meeting in March, 1912. That meeting laid the foundations of today's Labour Party.

Despite the early electoral failure, the Labour Party continued to mount effective campaigns. In the birth year of 1912, the secretary wrote to candidates requesting their views on fair wages clauses in municipal contracts, evening council meetings and provision of public baths and washhouses. The replies were printed in full by the Cambridge Daily News: Labour had arrived.

The outbreak of the Great War in 1914 interrupted local political activity, and Labour did not contest any seats until the party was reorganised three years later. Under this, individuals were allowed to join the party – before they had to be members of affiliated trade unions, the I.L.P. or Fabian Societies. The change caused support for the I.L.P. branch to dwindle, until it was dissolved in the twenties.

The reorganised party found fresh strength. In November, 1919, its efforts were rewarded with the election of three members to the Town Council. They were Major D.J. Freyer (Petersfield) Clara Rackham (West Chesterton) and W. Thompson (Romsey). Incredibly, just eight years after the party first unsuccessfully contested the Romsey seat, its candidate was returned with a 1,028 majority. The result in "Red" Romsey was:

Thompson (Lab)	1,375
Sparrow (Ind)	247

Lab. majority 1,028

## The First Balance Sheet of the Cambridge Labour Party

Cambridge Labour Party 1913

Balance Sheet

<u>Receipts</u>		<u>Cash</u>		<u>Dr</u>		<u>Cr</u>	
To Balance in Hand	112.5	By Annual Report	3.0				
Subscription fees -		By "The People's Weekly" Party	4.0				
To Office Expenses	10.5	By "The People's Weekly" Party	3.6				
To Bank of England	216.8	By "The People's Weekly" Party	1.10.0				
To S. L. E. & Co. (London)	7.8	By "The People's Weekly" Party	10.0				
Shop Assistant Union	5	By "The People's Weekly" Party	1.0				
By "The People's Weekly" Party	1.7.5	By "The People's Weekly" Party	1.0				
By "The People's Weekly" Party	1.6.1	By "The People's Weekly" Party	0.0				
By "The People's Weekly" Party	14.1	By "The People's Weekly" Party	15.0				
By "The People's Weekly" Party	5	By "The People's Weekly" Party	5.0				
By "The People's Weekly" Party	2.7.0	By "The People's Weekly" Party	7.0				
By "The People's Weekly" Party	1.0.0	By "The People's Weekly" Party	1.6.1				
By "The People's Weekly" Party	12.6	By "The People's Weekly" Party					
By "The People's Weekly" Party	10.0	By "The People's Weekly" Party	1.11.0				
By "The People's Weekly" Party	5.6	By "The People's Weekly" Party	15.0				
By "The People's Weekly" Party	44.4	By "The People's Weekly" Party					
By "The People's Weekly" Party	1.6.2	By "The People's Weekly" Party	5.0				
By "The People's Weekly" Party		By "The People's Weekly" Party	9.0				
By "The People's Weekly" Party		By "The People's Weekly" Party	1.1.0				
By "The People's Weekly" Party		By "The People's Weekly" Party	1.1.0				
By "The People's Weekly" Party		By "The People's Weekly" Party	5.4.1				

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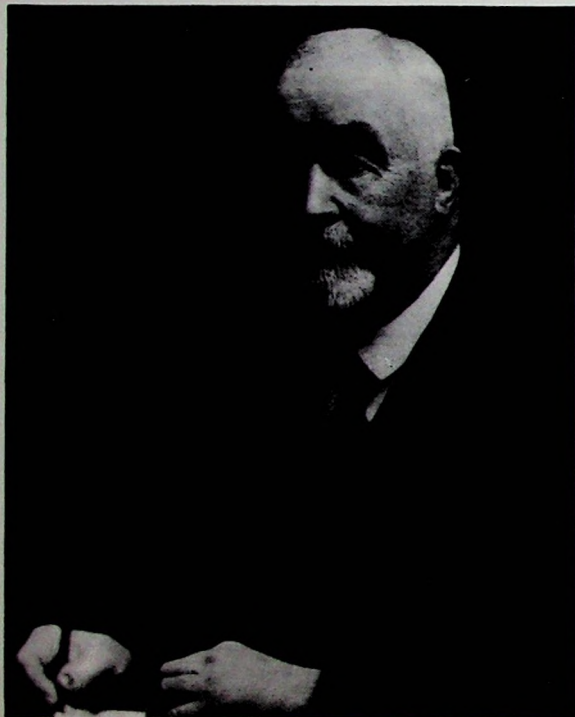
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Signed on behalf of Cambridge Labour Party Audited & found correct

J. G. P. Secretary W. D. H. H. } Directors  
J. G. P. Treasurer W. D. H. H. }

Well-balanced... Cambridge Labour Party's first balance sheet

# Next step: the first parliamentary fight



A GENERAL election was announced within days of the Armistice being signed in November, 1918. At its monthly meeting in the Kingston cafe at the foot of Mill Road bridge, the Trades and Labour Council decided to put up a Labour candidate. The meeting began a "kitty" to raise the £150 deposit and a public appeal for funds was published the next day in the Cambridge Daily News. Money came in from, among others, the Cambridge Cooperative Society and the University Socialist Society.

A Congregationalist minister from Brighton, the Rev. T. Rhondda Williams, was invited to stand. Two personal accounts of Labour's first parliamentary campaign survive. The first is Rhondda Williams's own, in his autobiography *How I Found My Faith: a Religious Pilgrimage*, published in 1938. The other comes from Leah Manning, who played a key role in managing the campaign.

The Labour candidate was a complete contrast to the Tory, Eric Geddes, now only remembered for his determination to "squeeze Germany until the pips squeaked". Rhondda Williams, described as "a typical Nonconformist parson with all the passionate sincerity of a Welsh revivalist", admitted in a letter to the party: "I had had a strong desire for years to fight an election to see if it could be done decently and without any mud-slinging." Among socialists who came to support him were Sidney Webb and Margaret MacMillan, well-known for her work with children in the Deptford slums.

The result was predictable, the unmemorable Tory polled 11,553 votes, against the 3,789 cast for the Labour Party. But it was still seen as an excellent result for Labour: the candidate did not lose his deposit, so the party had a healthy bank balance for the next round of local elections and an effective fighting organisation had been built. Labour was on the move.

*Non-conformist... Rhondda Williams led the first assault on Westminster*



# Red Romsey

BETWEEN the wars, Romsey Town was known as "Red Russia" or "Little Moscow", because it could guarantee to return Labour councillors in all local elections. So when land on the corner of Mill Road and Coleridge Road became available, the central party bought it for £950 with the idea of building its headquarters there. When this plan fell out of favour, Romsey ward asked if it could have the land to build a Labour Club, using voluntary labour.

The ambitious scheme was outlined at a meeting at Romsey School in September, 1924. E.W. Bond, a bricklayer and an active member of the Cambridge Friendly Societies, drew the plans and David Crown, a cooperator and building contractor, agreed to be clerk of works. Members of the Associated Union of Building Trade Workers pledged to give their labour free and to instruct other trade unionists also prepared to work on the building.

The foundation stone was laid by J. Ramsay MacDonald at a well-

attended ceremony on 17 April, 1926, three weeks before the General Strike. The Cambridge Daily News fully reported the event. Its report paints an inspiring picture: red rosettes were sold and there was a parade of banners emblazoned with the slogans, "Labour Offers You the true Friendship" and "Only Love Can Save the World", hymn singing, speeches and appeals for more money, since £500 was still needed to finish the building.

After four years' work, in October, 1928 the club was opened. It was a symbol of what workers could achieve unaided; after a day's work at their own jobs, workers turned out in the evenings and at weekends to work on the club. Others raised money through bazaars or by taking round collecting boxes.

But it was not only a symbol. Once open, it became a centre for political and social activities and was so thriving that an extension had to be built in 1935: Labour was growing.



*Laying Labour's foundations... workers making a start on Romsey Labour Club*



# Alex Wood Hall: brewery to party HQ

The hall was built in 1870 as a malting house for a Cambridge brewer, William Cawthorne. At the turn of the century, largely due to the domination of the big brewery companies, the business was in financial difficulties.

In 1902, a large part of the property, including the malting house, was conveyed to Fosters Bank to secure a mortgage. By 1910, the maltings had been converted into a hosiery factory by the ARC Knitting Company. Cawthorne ceased trading in 1911 and the malting house was bought by the Pantom Brewery, which in turn was taken over by Greene King in 1925.

Greene King decided to sell the building, once the lease to the knitting company ran out, and in 1927 it was bought by the Cambridge Trades Council and Labour Party for £975.

Since its foundation in 1912, Cambridge Labour Party had operated from several sites. Now it had found a permanent home in Norfolk Street. Extensive alterations included a stage with a dressing room behind it and an underground kitchen. The hall was officially opened by George Lansbury, M.P., a future Labour Party leader.

By the early 1980s the party's headquarters were deteriorating rapidly. Action was urgently needed. In 1985, the party signed an agreement with developers for a new hall with two storeys of offices to be built at the Norfolk Street end of the site; in return, part of the freehold passed to the developers for housing.

The new headquarters were finished in early 1986 and the party decided to keep the name of Alex Wood for the hall. The first floor committee room was named after another well-known Cambridge socialist, Clara Rackham.

The hall was officially opened on Saturday, October 19, 1986. Brenda Dean, general secretary of S.O.G.A.T., performed the ribbon-cutting ceremony and then addressed a packed meeting in the new hall.

Nearly 50 years after finding its first permanent home, Cambridge

Labour Party had built a headquarters that matched its modern-day strength.



*Fresh beginning... Brenda Dean opens the new Alex Wood Hall*

# Billy: Labour's first Mayor

WILLIAM Briggs, known to his friends as Billy, was a railwayman and one of the party's most active and hard-working members. Born in 1876, he joined the railway when he left school at 15, rising to be chief clerk at Cambridge station, even though the railway company penalised him for his leadership role in the General Strike.

Always active in trade union and Labour Party affairs, he was one of those who decided to put up a parliamentary candidate in 1918 and put £5 into the election fund.

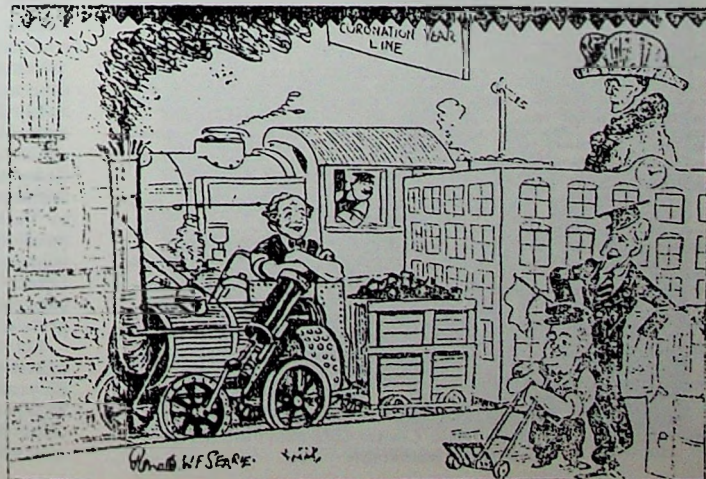
He was elected as a councillor for Romsey ward in 1920 and made an alderman in 1929. He served on many committees, including education – when the borough had its own education committee – and finance. He headed the committee which built Romsey Labour Club.

He first became Mayor in 1936, Coronation year. The cartoonist Ronald Searle, who regularly contributed to the Cambridge Daily News at the time, makes the link – the “crowning” of Labour in Cambridge and the royal Coronation in his cartoon.

As Mayor, Briggs was invited to attend the Coronation ceremony in Westminster Abbey. But he declined, saying he preferred to attend the local celebrations and to save the town the cost of the Mayor's expenses.

He was Mayor again between 1943 and 1944, only resigning from the City Council in April, 1956 because of ill-health. In 1951 he was given an honorary M.A. by the university.

*Labour's coronation... Ronald Searle's cartoon puts Alderman Billy Briggs on the Coronation Line train. Station staff are other Labour councillors – probably Bill Few on the footplate and A.E. Stubbs and Alex Wood as porters*





# Twenty Five Years on

## Cambridge Trades Council & Labour Party 25th Anniversary Celebrations

<b>SATURDAY, MARCH 6th,</b> 7 p.m. (assemble 6.45 p.m.). Tickets 3/-.	<b>PUBLIC DINNER</b> DOROTHY CAFE.
<b>SUNDAY, MARCH 7th,</b> 7 p.m.	<b>PUBLIC MEETING</b> CENTRAL LABOUR HALL, Norfolk Street. Speaker: MR. G. R. SHEPHERD (National Agent)
<b>MONDAY, MARCH 8th,</b> 8 p.m. to 12. Tickets 1/-. Admission at door 1/6.	<b>DANCE</b> CENTRAL LABOUR HALL, Norfolk Street. Arranged by Labour League of Youth. PERCY READ AND HIS BAND.
<b>TUESDAY, MARCH 9th,</b> 8 p.m. Admission 1/-.	<b>WHIST DRIVE</b> CENTRAL LABOUR HALL, Norfolk Street. Voucher Prizes. If 40 tables, top prize value 30/-.
<b>WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10th,</b> 5.45 p.m. Concert only 7.45 p.m. Tickets 9d. Concert 4d.	<b>TEA AND CONCERT</b> CENTRAL LABOUR HALL, Norfolk Street. Organised by the Women of the Party.
<b>THURSDAY, MARCH 11th,</b> 8 p.m.	<b>MASS MEETING</b> GUILDHALL. Speakers: D. R. GREENFELL, M.P. (Gower Division of Glamorgan) and DR. ALEX. WOOD.
<b>FRIDAY, MARCH 12th,</b> 8 p.m. to 12. Tickets 1/-.	<b>CARNIVAL DANCE</b> CENTRAL LABOUR HALL, Norfolk Street. HARRISON'S AUGMENTED BAND.
<b>SATURDAY, MARCH 13th,</b> 8 p.m. Admission Free.	DR. and MRS. WOOD <b>"AT HOME"</b> CENTRAL LABOUR HALL, Norfolk Street. All members of the Party invited. Music, Plays, Refreshments.

IN March, 1937 the party organised a week of special events to celebrate its Silver Jubilee. It began with a dinner at the Dorothy Restaurant which was attended by Clement Attlee, who was to become Prime Minister in 1945 and Hugh Dalton, who would serve in his cabinet, and four hundred guests who all paid 3/- (15p in today's money) for their tickets.

This covered the hire of the hall, use of the piano and special table decorations as well as the food. The menu: tomato soup, roast beef, roast lamb, sprouts, potatoes, hot plum tart with custard, trifle, cheese and biscuits.

More social events followed throughout the week: two dances with live bands, a whist drive and a tea and concert party. On the final Sunday evening, Dr and Mrs Alex Wood were "at home" at the Labour headquarters in Norfolk Street, where members were entertained with refreshments, music and plays.

Naturally, there was also plenty of political activity. One public meeting was addressed by the party's national agent and a mass meeting at the Guildhall heard the prospective parliamentary candidate, Alex Wood, and the M.P. for Glamorgan, D.R. Grenfall.

The next week, the regional secretary of the Building Trades Federation began an intensive trade union recruitment drive. Local unions advertised in a specially written souvenir booklet produced by David Hardman, a former parliamentary candidate. It featured recollections of early campaigns and articles on the growth of trade unionism and cooperation in Cambridge. A photograph of the twelve Labour town and county councillors took a proud place at the beginning of the booklet, which also reproduced a facsimile of the party's first balance sheet, dated March, 1913.

But there was more than mere self-congratulation behind the jubilee junketings. The booklet also reported on party finances over 25 years, and concluded with a sobering reminder that a debt of £1,500 still remained on the the hall and, in an appeal familiar today, called for donations to clear it.

*Jubilee jubilation... Cambridge Trades' Council and Labour Party celebrated the first 25 years in style*



# V for Victory

LESLIE Symonds' narrow though momentous victory in Cambridge in the Labour landslide of 1945 was a popular victory for a well-respected local teacher.

Symonds, who was born in Cambridge, won scholarships from elementary school, and was educated at the Perse and Jesus College. At university he took a degree in Classics and English, chaired the University Labour Club and won a half-blue for lacrosse. After graduating he became a teacher.

His commitment to Cambridge, education and his socialist beliefs was all-consuming. In the 1930s and 1940s he was a leading light in the Cambridge branch of the Labour League of Youth. He had grown up with many of the Labour activists of the wartime period. Some of them idolised him; all respected him. It was no surprise when he was selected unopposed as Labour candidate as the war drew to a close in the autumn of 1944.

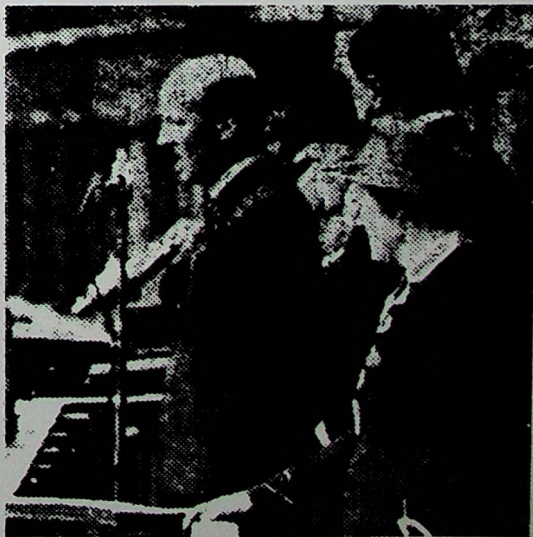
Cambridge Labour Party was determined to fight the first post-war election against the Conservatives, who were Labour's partners in the wartime coalition but who had presided over the "devil's decade" of the 1930s. Until 1943 its candidate was the pacifist, Alex Wood, but his withdrawal in the middle of the war allowed Symonds to declare his candidacy early. It was a strong bid for victory. Not only did he have a solid local reputation, he had seen active service in the war and had been mentioned in despatches.

Symonds' personal appeal was probably decisive. Although there was a tide of support for the socialist construction of a welfare state in 1945, Cambridge was still seen as a true blue constituency. Indeed, many Labour activists thought it would be easier to win the county seat because of trade union strength in many villages. Almost unbelievably, both constituencies fell to Labour.

Symonds took Cambridge with a majority of 682 and his fellow Cambridge party member, A.E. Stubbs, won the county by the even smaller margin of 44. The Cambridge councillor, David Hardman, also became M.P. for Darlington, a job he combined for many years with being a borough and a county councillor. And Leah Manning, another

Cambridge Labour stalwart, became the M.P. for Epping: Cambridge and Labour were on the map.

It was a tremendous all-round result for Cambridge Labour Party, but it was Symonds' victory that the party minutes recorded "with pride". Four decades later, it is that pride in local Labour achievement which invariably shines through when veteran Cambridge socialists recall the victory of 1945 or the life and work of Leslie Symonds.



*Local hero... Leslie Symonds, Labour's first M.P. in Cambridge*

# Robert Davies: Labour crusader

ROBERT DAVIES, who won the 1966 general election in Cambridge, becoming the city's second Labour M.P., ironically only entered politics reluctantly.

He moved to Cambridge after the war as an administrator with the Cambridge University Department of Applied Economics. He later became secretary of the department.

He stood for the city council in 1954 and defeated the Tories in East Chesterton. Apparently, he didn't really plan to stand, but was persuaded to contest the seat. He eventually chaired the planning committee.



*Tragically short... Labour's second M.P. died after only a year in the House*

His pacifist convictions saw him become vice-president and a founder member of Cambridge CND. By 1966, he had already stood for the city seat twice, and once for the Cambridge seat, and was now firm favourite to win the highly marginal constituency.

Victory was in the air. According to polls, he began the campaign with a 2% lead but had stretched it to 5% by the closing stages, despite a strong challenge from the much-respected and moderate Tory, David Lane.

After an exciting campaign, he became Cambridge's second Labour M.P. His majority was 991, smaller than he would have liked, but bigger than those of Symonds and Stubbs in 1945.

"The big challenge now", he said as he took his seat among the much-increased Labour majority in the Commons, "is to show that we can hold the seat for longer than Leslie Symonds."

During his year as M.P., he became known for his independent views and his refusal always to toe the parliamentary party's line. The Times described him as one of the "hard core of left-wing M.P.s., a unilateralist and a rebel."

Tragically, his time in the House was all too brief, for he died suddenly in 1968. In the by-election, Cambridge Labour Party could not counter widespread resentment of the Wilson Government's prices and incomes policy, and the seat was lost.

At his funeral, Stan Newens, then M.P. for Epping, paid this tribute to his life and work: "Robert Davies saw the Labour movement as a crusade for a new and better society, and he devoted himself to it without counting the cost – which was eventually his life. Any community owes a great debt to men like Robert, and his humanity, tolerance, self-sacrifice and devotion to others was a vital contribution to the Labour movement, Cambridge affairs and British politics."

# Control at last

IN 1973, following local government reorganisation, Labour swept into control of the new Cambridge District Council. Taking 26 of the 42 seats, Labour had an overall majority of 10 over the combined strength of the Conservatives (11 seats) and the Liberals (5 seats). As the Cambridge Evening News reported on 8 June, 1973, it was "the first time in Cambridge local government history that Labour had won overall control..."

Led by the new council leader, Peter Wright, Labour had dominated the election campaign, fighting it on the party's innovative policies on housing, traffic and much wider public participation in council affairs. The party's manifesto, *Now for a Labour Cambridge*, also promised to build 400 new council houses a year, and highlighting Labour's opposition to the Tory Government's fair rents policy.

Looking back on the crucial election Councillor Wright recalls that tempers became frayed at the count as the Tories sought to spoil Labour's victory: "Recount followed recount for the Cherry Hinton ward, where we had taken all five seats, but by a narrow majority."

"After four hours counting, the Town Clerk decided that the counters needed a rest and, much to our dismay, postponed the count until 10am the following morning. We knew we had won, and in the end the recount did not change the result – it nevertheless took some of the shine off the evening's victory celebrations."

*Winning words... the manifesto that swept Labour into power in Cambridge in 1973*

Labour's achievement in 1973 was one of the key turning points in the fortunes of the party in the city. The CEN reported: "The results are a bitter pill for Cambridge Conservatives... They have controlled the city council for many years... They have now been pushed right into the political background."

And the victory in 1973 was a springboard for the much larger period of Labour control in the 1980s. Led by Peter Wright, Chris Howard and Mark Todd, an energetic and responsive Labour group built a reputation for real care and concern within an efficiently run council. As the Cambridge party enters its 76th year, there is every reason to hope for future achievements on behalf of the people, both in the city and on the county council, where under the leadership of Janet Jones, Labour has gone from strength to strength.

## NOW FOR A LABOUR CAMBRIDGE

On 7th June you can make history by electing a Labour Council in Cambridge for the very first time.

For more action and news... learn for all the people of the City, CAMBRIDGE NEEDS A LABOUR COUNCIL.

**HOUSING** — more, better and the land people

In 1972 the Tory Government's Housing Finance Act gave the City Council an excuse to introduce severe rent increases with more to come in 1973, 1974 and 1975 which wages are held down. Labour Councillors urged the City Council to assess the new rents at the lowest level possible, but they were defeated by the Tories. Because of the Act, Cambridge house holders are paying at least £120,000 in extra rates in 1973/74. A Labour Council will:

- build more Council houses in as many parts of the City as possible. In 1972 only 48 houses were completed — a disgraceful record.

- set up a Housing Advice Centre to give the public information on all aspects of housing e.g. tenants' rights, rate and rent index, home purchase, mortgage, grants and rent etc.

- set further rules of council houses while the dangerous shortage of council housing continues.

- appoint a tenants' representative onto the Housing Committee.

- stop selling land to private profiteers.

**CITY CENTRE** — pedestrian and public transport first.

A Labour Council will expand existing schemes to make the City Centre safer and less polluted by giving priority to pedestrians, cycles and buses. Pedestrians will be welcomed. A residential parking system will be introduced in the City Centre and adjoining areas.

### THE FUTURE OF CAMBRIDGE

Labour believe are:

- consultation with the public before decisions are made.

- FERRYBURGH STREET — some rebuilding of the shops and provision of the park's necessary. Any development must make a pedestrian street, more Council housing in the area and the least possible destruction of existing houses. How the site is developed must depend on the Government report on the future of Cambridge and consultation with the public.

- expansion — more industry is needed to diversify job opportunities and increase wages.

- support for the construction of the Western and Northern by-passes and the elimination of heavy lorries from residential areas. Private motor cars should be encouraged and improved local bus and rail services.

**YOU AND A LABOUR COUNCIL**

A Labour Council will provide more direct door service about Council's services. We will encourage 150 families to close the Council's doors. We will publish our own news paper and will publish our own news paper and will publish our own news paper.

**A VOICE TO SPEAK FOR CAMBRIDGE**

Education, water, health, transport, electricity and other vital services will be controlled by Central and Local Government authorities. A Labour District Council will put pressure on these authorities to really look after the interests of Cambridge people.

**RECREATION**

A Labour Council will maintain pressure on the County Council to fund sports playing fields open for recreation at school holidays.

imposed the introduction of dance halls in Cambridge, and means that the new public hall is designed for as many uses as possible.

**LABOUR FIGHTS FOR THE PEOPLE**

Labour Councillors will use their own money to finance policies that will close the gap between the house and the lower rate — policies that will give a fair deal to the ordinary people of Cambridge. Even in Cambridge's Labour Councils have succeeded in:

- getting more public use of the city's swimming pools.

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# Still working for Cambridge



Seventy-five years on . . . members of the party's General Committee pose for the commemorative photo, Monday 2 November, 1987

# Battle for Westminster 1918-1987

Election	Electors	T'out %	Candidate	Party	Votes	%
1918	25,170	61.0	Rt. Hon. Sir E. C. Geddes	Co C	11,553	75.3
			Rev. T. R. Williams	Lab	<u>3,789</u>	<u>24.7</u>
[Resignation]					MAJ 7,764	50.6
1922	27,833	80.4	Sir D. G. C. Newton	Con	10,897	48.7
(16/3)			E. H. J. N. Dalton	Lab	6,954	31.1
			S. C. Morgan	Lib	<u>4,529</u>	<u>20.2</u>
					MAJ 3,943	17.6
1922	28,402	81.2	Sir D. G. C. Newton	Con	11,238	48.7
			S. C. Morgan	Lib	7,005	30.4
			A. S. Firth	Lab	<u>4,810</u>	<u>20.9</u>
					MAJ 4,233	18.3
1923	28,920	80.9	Sir D. G. C. Newton	Con	9,814	42.0
			S. C. Morgan	Lib	7,852	33.5
			A. S. Firth	Lab	<u>5,741</u>	<u>24.5</u>
					MAJ 1,962	8.5
1924	29,372	81.9	Sir D. G. C. Newton	Con	12,628	52.5
			A. S. Firth	Lab	6,744	28.1
			F. R. Salter	Lib	<u>4,670</u>	<u>19.4</u>
					MAJ 5,884	24.4
1929	40,227	79.8	Sir D. G. C. Newton	Con	13,867	43.2
			D. R. Hardman	Lab	10,116	31.5
			Sir M. S. Amos	Lib	<u>8,124</u>	<u>25.3</u>
					MAJ 3,751	11.7
1931	42,186	75.6	Sir D. G. C. Newton	Con	23,347	73.2
			Dr. A. Wood	Lab	<u>8,552</u>	<u>26.8</u>
[Elevation to the Peerage - Lord Eltisley]					MAJ 14,795	46.4

Election	Electors	T'out %	Candidate	Party	Votes	%
1934	42,939	67.8	R. L. Tufnell	Con	14,896	51.2
			Dr. A. Wood	Lab	12,176	41.8
			Rev. D. Macfadyen	Lib	<u>2,023</u>	<u>7.0</u>
					MAJ 2,720	9.4
1935	44,197	73.2	R. L. Tufnell	Con	18,927	58.5
			Dr. A. Wood	Lab	<u>13,436</u>	<u>41.5</u>
					MAJ 5,491	17.0
1945	55,898	69.2	A. L. Symonds	Lab	19,671	50.9
			R. L. Tufnell	Con	<u>18,989</u>	<u>49.1</u>
					MAJ 682	1.8
1950	58,742	86.5	H. W. Kerr	Con	25,151	49.5
			† A. L. Symonds	Lab	20,297	40.0
			Miss F. L. Josephy	Lib	<u>5,355</u>	<u>10.5</u>
					MAJ 4,854	9.5
1951	60,064	84.4	H. W. Kerr	Con	26,570	52.4
			A. L. Symonds	Lab	20,893	41.2
			Miss F. L. Josephy	Lib	<u>3,257</u>	<u>6.4</u>
					MAJ 5,677	11.2
1955	59,868	78.5	H. W. Kerr	Con	27,059	57.6
			A. L. Symonds	Lab	<u>19,932</u>	<u>42.4</u>
					MAJ 7,127	15.2
1959	59,745	79.8	Sir H. W. Kerr, Bt.	Con	24,350	51.1
			R. M. D. Davies	Lab	17,543	36.8
			A. G. de Montmorency	Lib	<u>5,792</u>	<u>12.1</u>
					MAJ 6,807	14.3

# Battle for Westminster 1918-1987

Election	Electors	T'out %	Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Election	Electors	T'out %	Candidate	Party	Votes	%
1964	60,365	79.1	Sir H. W. Kerr, Bt.	Con	20,720	43.3	1976	78,153	49.2	R. V. Rhodes James	Con	19,620	51.0
			R. M. D. Davies	Lab	19,331	40.5				M. H. Smith	Lab	9,995	26.0
			Dr. M. W. B. O'Loughlin	Lib	7,723	16.2				M. W. B. O'Loughlin	Lib	7,051	18.3
				MAJ	1,389	2.8				G. J. N. Sharpe	Ind	711	1.9
										J. E. Wotherspoon	NF	700	1.8
										P. M. Sargent	Ind	374	1.0
1956	60,380	80.0	R. M. D. Davies	Lab	21,963	45.5					MAJ	9,625	25.0
			D. W. S. S. Lane	Con	20,972	43.4							
			Dr. M. W. B. O'Loughlin	Lib	4,928	10.2							
			P. F. King	Ind	439	0.9							
[Death]				MAJ	991	2.1	1979	77,666	72.0	K. V. Rhodes James	Con	25,568	45.7
										M. H. Smith	Lab	20,772	37.1
										J. D. Wakelin	Lib	9,285	16.6
										D. W. Holland	NF	311	0.6
1967	60,382	65.7	D. W. S. S. Lane	Con	20,488	51.6					MAJ	4,796	8.6
			G. B. Scurfield	Lab	14,510	36.6							
			D. R. A. Spreckley	Lib	4,701	11.8							
				MAJ	5,978	15.0	1983	67,018	75.2	R. V. Rhodes James	Con	20,931	41.5
										M. Oakeshott	All	14,963	29.7
										J. Jones	Lab	14,240	28.2
										J. Dougrez-Lewis	Ind	286	0.6
1970	65,500	72.4	D. W. S. S. Lane	Con	26,252	55.3					MAJ	5968	11.8
			G. B. Scurfield	Lab	21,191	44.7							
				MAJ	5,061	10.6	1987	69,895	77.4	C. Howard	Lab	15,319	28.3
										R. V. Rhodes James	Con	21,624	39.9
1974	75,465	78.7	D. W. S. S. Lane	Con	24,119	40.6				S. Williams	All	16,564	30.6
			J. P. Curran	Lab	19,443	32.7				M. E. Wright	Eco	597	1.1
			M. W. B. O'Loughlin	Lib	15,491	26.1					MAJ	5,060	9.4
			Miss S. E. Inskter	Ind	369	0.6							
				MAJ	4,676	7.9							
1974	75,932	69.6	D. W. S. S. Lane	Con	21,790	41.2							
			J. P. Curran	Lab	19,017	36.0							
			M. W. B. O'Loughlin	Lib	11,129	21.1							
			C. J. Curry	UDP	885	1.7							
[Resignation on appointment as Chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality]				MAJ	2,773	5.2							



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*ON ITS*

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**Cambridge Labour Party 1912–1987**

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LABOUR PARTY**  
on the occasion of  
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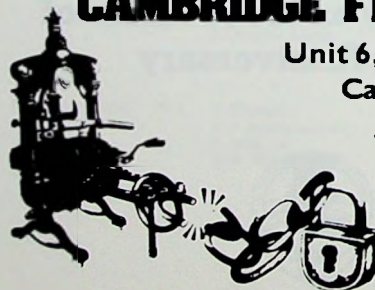


**CAMBRIDGE N.U.R.**

**CAMBRIDGE FREE PRESS**

Unit 6, 25 Gwydir Street  
Cambridge CB1 2LG

Tel: (0223) 316403



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**PRICE £1**

**Published by Cambridge City Labour Party, Alex Wood Hall, Norfolk St, Cambridge**  
**Printed by Cambridge Free Press Workers' Co-operative, Gwydir St, Cambridge**  
**Typeset by Textype Typesetters, Gwydir St, Cambridge**